

Blues' recent form will be tested

ILFORD, who inflicted Wycombe Wanderers' heaviest defeat of the season when they won 3-0 in the F.A. Trophy, pose a big threat to the Blues' recent upsurge in form when the two teams meet in the Rothmans Isthmian League at Newbury Park tomorrow (Saturday).

It was back on November 21 when Wycombe visited Ilford for their first ever game in the F.A. Challenge Trophy. Missing were goalkeeper John Maskell and Tony Horseman. Wanderers squandered chances early on and then a couple of mistakes by stand-in 'keeper Brian Steventon put them 2-0 down. A Gary Hand o.g. completed the scoreline and an unhappy day for the Bucks club.

A couple of weeks before the Trophy match, Ilford came down to Loakes Park and

became only the second team to take a point away from Wycombe after a 3-3 thriller. In one of the best games of the season, Wanderers went ahead through Steve Perrin after 52 minutes, John Still equalised a minute later and then John Butterfield gave Ilford a 2-1 lead. Goals by Alan Phillips and Tony Horseman within two minutes of each other had seemingly earned the points — then Ilford hit back again inside 120 seconds to level the score once more. That's how it stayed.

So Ilford have been the most successful team against Wycombe this season, and although they have two injury worries for tomorrow's game, they must feel confident. But

that confidence is matched by Wycombe's current form that includes 5-1 and 3-0 victories over Leytonstone and Woking in the last week.

Ilford's two casualties are leading scorer John Butterfield and Tony Gibson. Both have been out for a fortnight with leg injuries and it is not certain whether they will be fit in time. Striker Jim Wilsonham has been taking Butterfield's place.

Wanderers have only one problem for tomorrow, centre-forward Keith Searle. He twisted an ankle on Saturday, missed the Woking win and is rated by manager Brian Lee as doubtful against Ilford. Searle's aerial ability was missed on Tuesday and although Evans has

extra pace, the front three did not have its usual balance.

On what is bound to be a difficult pitch at Newbury Park, Wanderers will do well to come away with points. However, they are unlikely to make the same mistakes they did back in November.

Division One						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Enfield	27	21	3	5	55	15 66
Wycombe	28	19	6	3	54	24 63
Dag'ham	25	18	3	4	61	24 57
L'head	28	17	5	6	59	30 56
Dulwich	29	17	5	7	50	26 56
Ilford	27	14	6	7	59	36 48
Sutton	31	14	4	13	52	45 46
Tooting	25	13	5	7	33	30 44
Slough	28	12	5	11	47	36 41
W'stow	31	11	7	13	46	41 40
Oxford	29	12	4	13	40	39 40
Hitchin	26	12	2	12	37	43 38
Hendon	30	11	5	14	42	53 38
Kingston	31	12	2	17	36	49 38
Barking	28	9	6	13	46	51 33
Bishop's	27	10	3	14	33	42 33
L'stone	29	9	6	14	31	39 33
Clapton	31	10	2	19	39	64 32
Hayes	30	6	9	15	39	53 27
Woking	30	7	6	17	32	55 27
Walton	28	6	3	19	27	72 21
Bromley	30	5	1	24	19	70 16